

ONLINE SEARCH WITH SEARCH PARTY

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LBSC642 Fall 2012

<http://lpsc642.ahnjune.com/>

WHAT IS SEARCH PARTY

Search Party is a beta-version web based application that enables teachers to view how students search for information on Google.

Teachers sign into the tool through a Gmail account and can create an "Activity" that is split into specific search tasks. When an activity is created, it is assigned a code that teachers can give to students to enter the activity. When students enter the code, they can view and complete each task and teachers can monitor student activity.

WHY SEARCH PARTY?

Search Party enables teachers to

- See the process their students are taking to search through Google
- View overall trends in students' search techniques
- See how many steps it takes for students to complete a search
- Observe when a student feels that an action is successful, and what answers find from the search
- View students' searches individually as well as overall class statistics

SETTING AND MATERIALS

Who? 4th grade science students

How long? One 45 minute session

Goal 1: Introduce students to a new unit of electricity

Where? School computer lab

Materials? One computer per student.

Gmail address for teacher

Goal 2: Test students' search behavior

PREPARATION

The instructor will have to complete some preparation tasks in Search Party prior to the lesson:

1. Log in as teacher through <http://search-party.appspot.com>
2. Click "Create Activity"
3. Enter the activity and class name
4. Provide a description of the activity that students will view
5. Break the assignment into search tasks and describe each task if necessary.
6. Press "Create activity" and copy the activity code from the upper right hand corner.

TEACHER VIEW: PREPARING ACTIVITY

The screenshot shows the 'Create activity' form in the Search Party application. It includes fields for 'Activity name', 'Class name (optional)', and 'Activity description'. Below these are 'Tasks' with fields for 'Task #1 name', 'Task #1 description', 'Task #2 name', and 'Task #2 description'. Yellow arrows and boxes labeled 'Step 2' through 'Step 5' indicate the sequence of actions: Step 2 points to the 'CREATE ACTIVITY' button; Step 3 points to the 'Activity name' and 'Class name' fields; Step 4 points to the 'Activity description' text area; and Step 5 points to the 'Task #1 name' and 'Task #2 name' fields.

Create activity

Activity name
Intro to Electricity!

Class name (optional)
Ms. Claire's 4th Grade Science Class

Activity description
We will search for information on our new unit of electricity

Tasks

Task #1 name	Task #1 description
What is an electrical current?	
Task #2 name	Task #2 description
What are two things you need for elect	When you search, use no more than two words from the question.

STUDENT VIEW

The screenshot shows the 'STUDENT VIEW' interface. On the left, a sidebar contains a 'Task' section with a dropdown menu showing '1. What is an electrical'. Below this is a 'Problem' section (none), a 'Response' section with the text 'It's a thing.', and a 'Note' section with the text 'I found a video but not really sure what it's about'. On the right, a search bar contains the text 'what is an electrical current?'. Below the search bar, search results are displayed, including links to Wikipedia, Yahoo! Answers India, and an 'Electric Current' section. Yellow arrows labeled 'Step 2', 'Step 3', and 'Step 5' point to the task dropdown, the search bar, and the response/note sections respectively.

PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS

1. Students log into SearchParty as a student and enter their name and the activity number to access the tasks
2. Students can select task to complete in the upper left hand corner
3. Students enter search in search bar
4. When they click on a link, students can check it as helpful or not helpful
5. When they want to, they can enter a response and notes for the task.

OPTIONS FOR TEACHERS

- View trends in activities while search is occurring and personally assist students who report many unhelpful links, are taking lots of time to complete the task, or produce problematic responses.
- Analyze statistics after the lesson to observe trends and formulate an approach to the next lesson.

TEACHER VIEW: ANALYSES EXAMPLES

Queries
electrical current (✓1)
Words
current (✓1)
electrical (✓1)
Links Followed
Electric Current (✓1)
Responses
a flow of energy through a circuit (1)

